(b) In order to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS in India, a comprehensive programme is currently under implemention throughout the country as a centrally sponsored scheme. The main strategies consist of:

— Strengthening Programme management capabilities at Central and State levels.

— creation of awareness amongst high risk behaviour groups and general public about HIV/AIDS.

— Control of Saxually Transmitted Diseases and condom promotion.

— Promoting blood safety and rational use of blood through proper licensing of blood banks and encouraging voluntary blood donation.

— Strengthening capacity for surveillence and diagnosis; and

— Extending training in clinical management of HIV/AIDS.

Demand for Hepatitis 'B' vaccine

1919. DR. M.N. DAS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a great demand for Hepatitis 'B' Vaccine has recently been created in our country through propaganda and a fear psychosis has prompted richer sactions of society to go in for it even though the cost of the vaccine is too high;

(b) if so, whether Government have obtained judicious opinion of medical experts and approved of the use of the vaccine; and

(c) if so, what strategy the Ministry has adopted to control or eradicate hepatitis 'B' infection from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Hepatitis-B is a public health problem in India where an estimated 3-5% of population or 43 millions people in India may be carriers of the Hepatitis-B Virus.

(b) Hepatitis-B is now a vaccine-preventable disease. Immunisation with available vaccines provides the possibilities of eliminating this virus.

(c) The following measures have been taken to control hepatitis-B infection:

— Mandatory screening of blood at blood banks.

— Health education activities to promote safe sex behaviour under the National AIDS Control Programme.

— Instructions issued to the Health Authorities for use of a separate sterile syringe and needle for each injection.

— Central Government hospitals' personnel at high risk to be immunized. State Governments have been advised to take similar steps.

Excess Thyroid by Consumption of Iodine

1920. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether excess consumption, that is more than the human body needs of Iodine, cause Thyroid problem;

(b) the reasons for increasing number of Thyroid patients in the country; and

(c) the total number of Thyroid and Goitre patients reported in pre-banned period of iodised salt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) According to the Indian Council for Medical Research, the optimal requirement of iodine is 150Ug/ person per day. However intake of iodine upto 1000Ug/day is consistent with normal function and is considered safe.

There is no scientific data published to demonstrate increasing incidence of thyroid problem in the country. As per a survey conducted in 275 Districts in 25 States and 4 UTs, 235 Districts were reported to be endemic with prevalence level of more than 10%.

(c) The Indian Council for Medical Research study carried out in 1984—86 on the prevalence of goitre in 14 Districts of 3 States indicated an overall prevalence of goitre to be about 21%.

Master Plan of IGRI, Shillong

1921. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conceptual plan has been incorporated in the Project Report and Master Plan of the North-Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong;

(b) if not, by when the master plan would be prepared and finalised; and

(c) by when construction of buildings at the permanent site of the Institute would start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (c) The draft concept plan submitted by the Institute is being reviewed in the Ministry for incorporating in the Project Report and Master Plan. The construction of building at the permanent site of the Institute would be started after the plan and estimates are finalised and approval of competent authority obtained.

स्वापक पदार्थों के प्रयोग में वृद्धि

1922. **श्री राजनाथ सिंह 'सूर्य'**: क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में स्वापक पदार्थों का उपयोग बढ़ता जा रहा है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसका स्वरूप क्या है;

(ग) क्या सरकार इस संबंध में कोई नई रणनीति बनाने पर विचार कर रही है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री दलित एजिलमलाई): (क) और (ख) जी हां। विभिन्न अध्ययनों और रिपोर्टों से गलियों में घूमने वाले बच्चों, परिवहन कामगारों, देह व्यापार में लगे लोगों, मलिन बस्तियों और सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रों के पास में रहने वाले लोगों जैसे कुछ संवेदनशील वर्गों में औषध दुरुपयोग की घटनाओं में वृद्धि होने का पता चलता है।

(ग) और (घ) स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय ने नशामुक्ति केन्द्रों को चलाने के लिए 82 सरकारी मेडिकल कालेजों/जिला स्तरीय अस्पतालों को सहायता प्रदान की है जिनमें उत्तर पूर्वी क्षेत्र में 25 केन्द्र भी शामिल हैं। रोगियों के उपचार के लिए समुदाय आधारित दूर-दराज सेवाएं प्रदान करने के लिए कुछ प्रायोगिक परियोजनाएं और अभिनव नीतियां चलाई गई हैं।

सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय नशामुक्ति, पुनर्वास और परामर्शी केन्द्रों के लिए 278 गैर-सरकारी संगठनों और प्रिंट और इलेक्ट्रानिक मीडिया के माध्यम से जागरूकता कार्यक्रमों के लिए सहायता प्रदान कर रहा है।

Children suffering from Leprosy

1923. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of children are suffering from Leprosy; and

(b) if so, details of steps taken to check the spread of the disease among children and for effective treatment of those already afflicted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) Out of total registered Leprosy cases, 13—20% are children below 15 years. A significant number of them are early self healing